

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
PROGRAM EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

IAC Conference Room
150 W. Market Street Suite 618
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
February 26, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

Karen Ellerbrook, Chair

Minutes

Members present: none

Members via teleconference: Karen Ellerbrook, Earl Williams, Suzie Rentschler, Sandi Clark, Pam Hicks, Dick Stifel

Members absent: Lynn Jakubowski, Kelly Schreckengast, Judy Hess

IAC staff present: Michelle Anderson, Bobbie Garver, Susan Britsch, Kristina Davis, Eric Freeman, Dennis Hardin

IAC staff via teleconference: Lewis Ricci

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Ms. Ellerbrook convened the meeting at 2:04 p.m., and welcomed everyone.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Ms. Rentschler moved to adopt the consent agenda; Ms. Clark seconded. Motion passed.

3. **Affect of Budget Reductions on Grant Programs and Regional Arts Partnership.** IAC Deputy Director Michelle Anderson began the discussion by explaining the revamping of the RAP application and guidelines, which are now “live” on the IAC website. She also reported that she, as Deputy Director, will now be the point person for inquiries regarding the new application process. Mr. Ricci then discussed the possible budget scenarios (handout attached) which will guide future IAC funding of its grant programs, depending upon the size of the FY2010 budget now being formulated in the Indiana legislature. The largest impact could come if the IAC budget is reduced by as much as \$1 million; it would no longer be feasible to maintain the Regional Arts Partners as a delivery system for IAC grants, because the administrative costs would be larger than the grants themselves. However, it will be a period of several weeks before the state budget is finalized, and so it is premature to make any decisions at the present time. IAC Community Development Manager Kristina Davis also discussed the possibility of using future grant monies to expand the Capacity Building Grant program to assist arts organizations during the current economic downturn. Mr. Ricci explained that it is not known at this time how much funding would be necessary to provide credible support, or what the scope of this expanded program might be; empowerment and education might be as important as actual funding for struggling organizations. The Capacity Building Program as is currently exists has

been suspended (current grantees not affected) until further study can be undertaken.. Ms. Ellerbrook asked for a motion to adopt the recommendations for the CBP suspension and study, to be forwarded to the full commission at its next meeting. Ms. Hicks so moved; Ms. Clark seconded. Motion passed.

4. Arts in Education Summit Update. IAC Community Development Manager Susan Britsch provided a report on plans for an Arts Education Summit to be held on June 8, 2009 in Indianapolis. In cooperation with Young Audiences, IAC will bring in leaders in various areas of arts education from such states as Illinois, Colorado, Iowa and Colorado, to address a group of educators, administrators, artists, and organizations from around the state. Topics will include best practices as they relate to advocacy, lesson planning, assessment, teacher mentorship, and arts integration. Space for meetings has been donated by Herron School of Art, Indiana State Museum, and the Eiteljorg Museum for this one-day event. Ms. Britsch also reported that the Indiana Poetry Out Loud competition will be held on Saturday February 28 at the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, with 12 students participating. The winner will advance to the national finals in Washington DC in April.

5. Indiana Artisan Update. Michelle Anderson began the discussion by reporting that an Indiana Artisan exhibit has been mounted in the Indiana State Museum, and she was very impressed upon her recent visit. Artisan Project Director Eric Freeman then gave a brief recap of progress on the project, calling it “a program whose time has come”. He reported that Ball State University’s Building Better Communities program developed curriculum for workshops that were held in Bloomington, Arcadia, and Elkhart. The workshops offered speakers who discussed planning, marketing, and website development. In December 2008, five selected artisans attended an entrepreneurial workshop presented by Dr. Larry Cox of Pepperdine University; topics included production, wholesaling, price points, audience targeting, and marketing from rural areas. The first Indiana Artisan Marketplace is projected to occur February 25 – 28, the first two days targeted toward wholesalers and retailers, and the last two days open to the general public. Juried-in artisans have also launched an online community through Yahoo where they can communicate directly with their colleagues. He also reported that \$75,000 has been awarded among eight organizations for Artisan Trail Development, and that \$11,000 in grants have been awarded for Individual Artisan Business Development. Jury sessions for 2009 are scheduled for May and October; the project currently has 85 juried-in artisans, and a total of about 250 is desired. Other priorities for 2009 include workshops, mentoring, the Artisan Marketplace, developing relationships with retailers, and a proposal for achieving a self-sustaining Artisan Program in 2010. Several members of the committee congratulated Mr. Freeman for his wonderful work with the Artisan Development Project.

6. Old Business. Ms. Davis reported that Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities will host 4 workshops this spring in New Albany, Indianapolis, Columbus, and Valparaiso. Ms. Ellerbrook encouraged everyone to participate in Arts Advocacy Day at the Statehouse on March 12.

7. New Business. Mr. Williams suggested that the commission consider altering its meeting dates for February – March 2010 to coincide with the legislative “short” session. Mr. Ricci

replied that it is a good idea, but that if the legislature decides to permanently change to one-year budget cycles (as it did this year) instead of two-year cycles, then there will likely be no “short” sessions in future legislatures.

8. **Adjourn.** Ms. Rentschler moved for adjournment. Ms. Hicks seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.